

REMARKS

The Examiner raised the following issues to which the Applicants respond in the following order:

- I. Claim 52 is allowable in independent form.
- II. Claims 51 & 53-56 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by United States Patent No. 3,973,781 To Gorich K.
- III. Claim 57 is withdrawn from consideration.

I. Claim 52 Is Allowable

The Examiner has admitted that Claim 52 is allowable. *Office Action. pg 3 Para. 7.* The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's position but also believe that Claim 51 is allowable even in view of the Examiner's current anticipation rejection under Gorich (*infra*). Nonetheless, without acquiescing to the Examiner's rejection but to further the prosecution, and hereby expressly reserving the right to prosecute the original (or similar) claims, Applicants have amended Claim 51 to recite the claimed embodiment of Claim 52, thereby creating an independent claim the Examiner has admitted is allowable. The Applicants further believe that Claims 53-56 are also now allowable because the claim limitations of an independent claims are imputed into the associated dependent claims. This amendment is made not to acquiesce to the Examiner's argument but only to further the Applicants' business interests, better define one embodiment and expedite the prosecution of this application.

II. The Claims Are Not Anticipated By Gorich

As the Examiner is well aware, a single reference must disclose each limitation of a claim in order for that reference to anticipate the claim. *Atlas Powder Co. v. E.I. du Pont De Nemours & Co.*, 224 U.S.P.Q. 409, 411 (Fed. Cir. 1984). This criterion is not met with the Gorich reference.

As pointed out in the last Office Action response, Gorich does not teach protrusions having recesses. Consequently, the Applicant argues that this rejection is now moot based upon the amendment to Claim 51 made above for other reasons.

Consequently, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the present rejection.

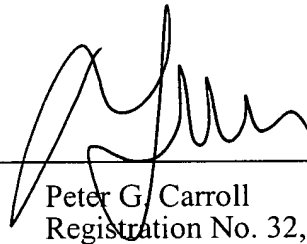
III. Claim 57 Should Not Be Withdrawn

The Examiner has asserted that the Applicant's Claim 57 "... is directed to a non-elected invention." *Office Action pg 2 Para 4*. The Applicants disagree. Nonetheless, without acquiescing to the Examiner's argument but to further the prosecution, and hereby expressly reserving the right to prosecute the original (or similar) claims, Applicants have formally canceled improperly withdrawn Claim 57 in order to place the present application in condition for allowance. This amendment is made not to acquiesce to the Examiner's argument but only to further the Applicants' business interests, better define one embodiment and expedite the prosecution of this application

CONCLUSION

The Applicants believe that the arguments set forth above traverse the Examiner's rejections and, therefore, respectfully request all the pending rejections be withdrawn for the reasons set above and the pending claims be passed to allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would aid in the prosecution of this application, the Applicants encourage the Examiner to call the undersigned collect at 617.984.0616.

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